

Remarks

A final Office Action was issued on September 10, 2003, maintaining the previous rejections of all the pending claims 1-30, 47-50 and 83-84. New claims 85-91 are now being added, leaving claims 1-30, 47-50 and 83-91 pending.

On December 3, 2003, Applicants conducted an Examiner Interview by teleconference to discuss the Final Office Action. A summary of Examiner Interview is provided below.

Interview Summary

The Examiner Interview conducted by teleconference was attended by both inventors named on the application, as well as the U.S. and U.K. patent attorneys that are responsible for prosecuting the application (collectively referred to as Applicants). During the Interview, Applicants attempted to explain the claimed invention to the Examiner with the assistance of a slide presentation. A majority of the discussion related to claim 1. More specifically, Applicants explained why they believe that neither Doktor nor Kurz, teach or suggest, that relationships (between entities) are associated with a historical period of validity, as required by claim 1. Applicants also explained the significance of this feature. No agreement was reached during the interview.

Comments Regarding Previously Presented Claims

Applicants still disagree with the outstanding rejections of the claims. More specifically, Applicants still believe that claims 1-30, 47-50 and 83-84 are patentable for at

least the reasons set forth in the Response filed on June 24, 2003, and the reasons explained during the Examiner Interview. Applicants are maintaining these claims so as to preserve their right to Appeal the rejections of these claims.

Comments Regarding New Claims

Applicants have filed new claims 85-91, which further highlight patentable features of the present invention. Applicants request examination and allowance of these new claims.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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